GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:243
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2007
OIL AND NATURAL GAS DISCOVERIES
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new oil and gas reserves have been found in many parts of the country by the public and private sector oil companies in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a considerable investments in oil and gas resources overseas have been made;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make India self-reliant in oil and natural gas?

Answer

MINISTER FOR PETROLUEM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.243 BY SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY AND SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15TH MARCH, 2007 REGARDING OIL AND NATURAL GAS DISCOVERIES.

(a) & (b) : In last three years, 2003-06, ONGC, OIL and Private/Joint Ventures Companies have made 61 Hydrocarbon discoveries resulting in 729 million tonnes of new in-place oil and gas reserves in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tripura as well as Eastern and Western offshore areas of the country.

(c) & (d) : To enhance the country`s energy security, in keeping with the objectives of the National Common Minimum Programme, national oil companies such as ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), OIL India Limited (OIL), Gail India Limited (GAIL), and private sector companies such as Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Videocon and Essar have acquired participating interests in oil and gas projects abroad. Approximate investments made by National Oil Companies in overseas E&P projects as at the end of 2006 were about Rs.20,000 crores in 20 countries.

OVL`s Greater Nile Oil Project (GNOP) in Sudan, Sakhalin-I Project in Russia, Vietnam Project (Block 06.1), Block 24 in Syria and Mansarovar Project in Colombia in all of which OVL has participating interest, yield oil & gas production of the order of 6 million tonnes per annum. The other assets are at various stages of exploration.

(e) : The significant steps initiated by the Government and public sector undertakings for meeting the demand of petroleum products in the country, inter alia, include:

(i) increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), Coal Bed Methane (CBM) policy and exploring new areas, especially in deep waters and difficult frontier areas, as also the deeper layers of already producing fields;

(ii) improving the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes;

(iii) developing newly discovered fields speedily and stepping up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells, etc., in producing areas;

(iv) acquisition of oil and gas assets abroad in order to ensure hydrocarbon security for the country.

(v) Long term agreements for import of LNG.

(vi) Transnational gas pipelines

(vii) Exploring potential of alternate sources

(viii) Conservation of petroleum products

(ix) Setting up Strategic Petroleum Reserves